

Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Richard Souza. I am from East Hartford. I am testifying today, March 5, 2021, in **support of:**

H.B. No. 6491 An Act Concerning Nonlethal Electronic Defense Weapons

SUPPORT: H.B. No. 6491 An Act Concerning Nonlethal Electronic Defense Weapons

There are many good people who are unwilling, because of religious or philosophical beliefs, to carry and use an instrument of lethal force, such as a handgun, against an assailant. Many of these good people would be willing to use a nonlethal electronic device to protect themselves and their loved ones. They should not be deprived of the right to protect themselves as best they can within the confines of their belief systems. These people are not a threat to society. Criminals are a threat to society, and criminals will carry and use whatever weapons they deem necessary to murder, rape and rob regardless of laws that prohibit the carrying of such weapons. **Let us give the good people of Connecticut the means to defend themselves. Let us give them a fighting chance.**